

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 111305Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4539

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1396

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MT, IT, UR

SUBJ: TASS CORRESPONDENT IN MALTA

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI TOLD AMBASSADOR JULY 10 THAT WHEN HE SAW MINTOFF AT AIRPORT ENROUTE TO HELSINKI LAST WEEK MINTOFF ASKED HIM WHAT THE TASS CORRESPONDENT WAS UP TO. (TASS CORRESPONDENT LIVES IN RENTED VILLA LESS THAN TEN YARDS FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE.)

2. MASSA BERNUCCI SAID HE REPLIED TASS MAN SEEMED RELATIVELY QUIET AND HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON HIS ACTIVITIES. AMBASSADOR AT THIS POINT NOTED TO MASSA BERNUCCI THAT TASS MAN REPUTED TO BE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH PAUL AGIUS, LOCAL COMMUNIST, PRESENTLY VERY ACTIVE IN COOPERATIVE MOVEMENTS. MASSA BERNUCCI SAID IT WAS VERY CLEAR TO HIM THAT MINTOFF IS UNHAPPY WITH TASS PRESENCE.

3. MASSA BERNUCCI THEN CONFIDED THAT HE NOW HAS TWO SECURITY OFFICERS SENT DOWN FROM ROME ON HIS STAFF. WHILE THEY HAVE TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONS AGAINST ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, MASSA BERNUCCI IS NOT SATISFIED AND IS TRYING TO GET PERMISSION TO RELOCATE CHANCERY IN FLORIANA AREA NEARER THE UK HIGH COMMISSION AND SITE WHERE US CHANCERY

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WILL BE RELOCATED THIS MONTH.

GETZ

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NNN

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